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Space does not permit a comparison of the labors of the several writers who have, in collaboration with Professor Commons, produced this monumental work in the field of American economic history. Suffice it to say that while the work suffers in a degree from the usual effects of divided authorship, there is greater unity of style and mode of treatment than is usually found in composite works. One misses the swing and the restrained enthusiasm which are more likely to be present when a single author skillfully traces the rise or fall of some great movement, and is more concerned with historical interpretation than with the mere sequence of events.

Yet it is due to the editor and writers of the *History of Labour in the United States* to say that the treatment of the various portions runs closely parallel to the interpretation of the introductory chapter. This might, of course, mean nothing more than that the editor had waited until the various chapters were written and had then undertaken to point out the significant features, but in view of the fact that the same lines of interpretation run through the explanatory chapters of the *Documentary History*, already mentioned, of which Professor Commons was the editor-in-chief, we must conclude that the editorship of the present work was not of a perfunctory character, but that the several writers had come to accept Professor Commons's interpretation of the events which they chronicled.

M. B. HAMMOND.

A Social History of the American Family from Colonial Times to the Present. By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN, Ph.D. Volume III. *Since the Civil War.* (Cleveland: A. H. Clark Company. 1919. Pp. 411. \$5.00.)

THE first two volumes of this work were published in 1917 and 1918, and were reviewed by the present writer in the *American Historical Review*, July, 1918 (XXIII. 860). The criticism there made holds good for the present volume; for the purpose, point of view, character of the sources of information, the general method, and use of evidence all reappear.

Briefly, the author essays to "develop an understanding of the forces that have been operative in the evolution of family institutions in the United States". These forces are mainly (p. 332), "the ascendancy of the bourgeois class, the dominance of a virgin continent, and the industrial revolution". His point of view still leads him to emphasize "pathological abnormalities". His sources still consist, to a large extent, of the *opinions* of foreign travellers or other writers, respecting the status of the family. Articles in popular journals seem to have a peculiar attraction for the author, and he makes large use of such periodicals as the *Independent*, *Outlook*, *Literary Digest*, *Chautauquan*, *Everybody's*, *Delineator*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and the principal monthly magazines.

His method is much the same, the citation of opinions of travellers, or others, whose knowledge was often vague, incomplete, or based on second-hand information, but nevertheless is made the basis for broad generalizations respecting prevailing practices or the status of the family. There is little effort to evaluate or test the evidence used. The general effect is to make this a popular rather than a scientific work, and to set forth the evolution and status of the urban rather than the rural family; to consider the forces which influenced the family living in relatively large cities, rather than in the smaller urban centres.

There are fourteen chapters, the first three on the white and negro families in the South, one on the new basis of American life, two on woman and the family, three on the child, family control, and the "precarious home", three on marriage, race-sterility and race-suicide, and divorce, and the last two on the attitude of the church, and the family and the social revolution. The main points brought out are, first, low wages and a rise in the standard and cost of living; secondly, the opening up to women of an independent "career"; thirdly, the passing of the control of the child to socialized public institutions; fourthly, the break-up of the home and family due to life in apartment and public hotels, and in boarding-houses; fifthly, the effect of urban civilization, resulting in the physical deterioration of women and children. All these forces tended to lessen marriage, produce race-sterility and race-suicide, and increase divorce, and, for the working classes, to produce conditions which hindered normal family life because of poverty, crowding, and the resulting effects.

The author believes that the real menace of the family is capitalism—"the relentless workings of the profit system"—and that only a new economic order will remedy the danger.

A new family is inevitable, a family based on the conservation and scientific administration of limited natural resources, on the social ownership of the instrumentalities of economic production and the universal enjoyment of the fruits, and on a social democracy devoid of artificial stratification based on economic exploitation. Such is the promise of American life, of the world life (p. 332).

In spite of the criticism offered with respect to its unscientific character and the tendency to overemphasize "pathological abnormalities", this work is the most complete in its field. It is interesting, illuminating, and, in the opinion of the reviewer, this third volume is superior to the first two, both with respect to the grasp the author shows of the fundamental forces governing the evolution of the family, at least in distinctly urban communities, and because the facts set forth are more convincing than in the earlier volumes. It is a work that must be consulted by the student of the general social history of America. A bibliography and a good index, for the three volumes, is appended.

MARCUS W. JERNEGAN.